

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 SSM-05 SCCT-01 EUR-12

ACDA-10 /094 W

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O R 171056Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7278

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS - APRIL 17

1. HEADLINES ALL PAPERS APRIL 17 PROCLAIMED LEBANESE AND GENERAL ARAB WELCOME OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. TISHRIIN WROTE THAT LEBANESE MASSES HAILED AGREEMENT AND CONSIDERED THAT ADHERENCE TO SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND REJECTION OF AMERICAN SOLUTION, AS WELL AS ARABIZATION OR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CRISIS, SIGNALLED BEGINNING OF PREPARATIONS FOR SECOND STEP -- ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT, RESIGNATION OF CURRENT PRESIDENT AND INITIATION OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS. ARTICLE STATED THAT PRES. FRANJIEH WAS EXPECTED TO SIGN DECREE AMENDING ARTICLE 73 TODAY.

2. PROMINENT TREATMENT GIVEN TO VISIT OF DELEGATION OF BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND TO PRIMIN KARAME EVENING APRIL 16. AFTER MEETING, KARAME REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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AS WELCOMING "CONCERN OF OUR BROTHERS IN SYRIA WHICH

STEMS FROM THEIR NATIONAL AND HUMAN FEELINGS AS WELL AS  
UNITY OF OUR COMMON INTEREST AND OUR COMMON FATE."

3. FURTHER REPORTS STATED THAT ARAFAT HAD MET PROMPTLY  
WITH JUMBLAT UPON HIS RETURN FROM DAMASCUS AND THAT  
JUMBLAT HAD STATED AFTER MEETING HE WOULD "TAKE POSITIVE  
ATTITUDE TOWARD AGREEMENT." PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL ALSO  
REPORTED AS SUPPORTING SYRIAN INITIATIVE. MINISTER  
USAYRAN QUOTED AS SAYING PRES. ASAD'S ROLE IN LEBANESE  
AFFAIRS WAS THE OPENLY EXPRESSED WILL OF LEBANESE PEOPLE.  
IMAN MUSA SADR ALSO CITED AS SUPPORTING SYRIAN POSITION.

4. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT OF AL-THAWRAH SAW AGREEMENT  
AS BLOW TO SCHEMES OF ENEMIES OF ARAB NATION AND LAUDED  
FIRM UNITY BETWEEN SYRIA AND PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION.  
ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS, HE SAID, AGREEMENT CONFIRMED  
THAT "SYRIAN RESISTANCE IS ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING  
THE BLOODSHED, FORESTALLING RENEWED FIGHTING AND FOILING  
THAT PARTITION PLOT." IT ALSO DEMONSTRATED ARABS'  
"DETERMINATION TO CONFRONT AMERICAN SCHEME AND ALL PLOTS  
AGAINST LEBANON AND PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION."

5. TWO PAPERS REPORTED ON FRONT PAGE PROVDA ARTICLE  
DEPLORING MOVEMENT OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS CLOSER TO  
LEBANESE COAST. THIS WAS REMINISCENT OF  
"HEAVY STICK POLICY WHOSE FAILURE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED."

6. TISHRIIN CARRIED EXCLUSIVE STATEMENT BY FORMER  
FRENCH FORMIN COUVE DE MURVILLE UNDERLINING THAT  
PARTITION WAS NOT A SOUND OR PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR  
LEBANON AND WOULD LEAD TO COMPREHENSIVE WAR.  
MURPHY

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